

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1380

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION SINAI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PEPR EG IS

SUBJECT: SHIMON PERES INTERVIEW WITH MOUSSA SABRI

1. AKHBAR JULY 12 PUBLISHES EDITOR-IN-CHIEF MOUSSA SABRI'S INTERVIEW WITH SHIMON PERES. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERVIEW.

2. SOLUTIONS TO MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. SABRI ASKED PERES FOR HIS VISUALIZATION OF WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SOLVE PROBLEM. PERES SAID FIRST, THERE MUST BE ADDED TO EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL A PICTURE OF WHAT THINGS WILL BE LIKE AFTER A PEACE AGREEMENT. THE LAST EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL DOES NOT INCLUDE PROMISE TO ESTABLISH NORMAL RELATIONS. SECONDLY, THERE MUST BE CLEAR DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN SPECIAL SITUATION IN SINAI, WHERE THERE WERE RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL BORDERS, AND THE WEST BANK,

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WHOSE BORDERS RESULT OF VARIOUS WARS. THERE MUST BE SOME CHANGES IN FUTURE BORDERS. ISRAEL CANNOT LIVE ON NARROW PIECE OF LAND; THIS IS NOT "EXPANSION," PERES SAID, BUT A REQUIREMENT OF EXISTENCE.

3. PALESTINIANS. PERES ACKNOWLEDGED THERE IS A PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WHICH MUST BE SOLVED SATISFACTORILY

IN ALL ITS ASPECTS. PERES SAYS HE AGREES WITH ESSENCE OF ASWAN FORMULA; PALESTINIANS SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN DETERMINING THEIR FUTURE. ISRAEL WILL NOT DEAL WITH PLO. PLO WILL SEEK IMPOSE ITS VIEWS THROUGH MILITARY FORCE. ASKED WHAT HIS POSITION WOULD BE IF PLO RECOGNIZED ISRAEL, PERES REPLIED IF THAT HAPPENED PLO AS SUCH WOULD CEASE TO EXIST AND NEW SITUATION WOULD ARISE. PERES SEES JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN ENTITY AS PREFERABLE SOLUTION AND BEST PROMISE FOR FUTURE FREE OF POSSIBLE SOVIET EXPLOITATION OF PALESTINIAN MINI-STATE, AS WAY TO STOP EXTREMIST CONFLICTS AND PROVIDE FUTURE FOR THE REFUGEES.

4. ISRAEL. ASKED WHETHER ISRAELI PUBLIC OPINION STILL SUPPORTS BEGIN, PERES ANSWERED MOST ISRAELIS SUPPORT THE PEACE INITIATIVE BUT REGARD SECURITY MEASURES AS NECESSARY PART OF SETTLEMENT. EVEN IF THERE IS SETTLEMENT OF THE WEST BANK PROBLEM, ISRAEL STILL CONCERNED ABOUT SYRIANS. SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS ARE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. PERES NOTES THAT EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS, WHILE HE CRITICIZES THEM, GIVE IMPORTANCE TO SECURITY NEEDS AND HE APPRECIATES THAT CONCERN FOR ISRAELI SECURITY NOT NEW THING FOR EGYPTIANS. ASKED WHETHER HE FELT ISRAEL WAS ISOLATED, PERES SAID ISRAELI POSITIONS WILL BE TAKEN BASED ON WHAT HAPPENS IN NEGOTIATIONS. HE WAITING TO SEE HOW THINGS GO.

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5. BEGIN. SABRI ASKED IF PERES FELT BEGIN TRYING TO WRECK INITIATIVE. PERES ANSWERED HE BELIEVES BEGIN WANTS PEACE, AND THAT HE DOES NOT DOUBT BEGIN'S INTENTIONS. HIS DIFFERENCES WITH BEGIN ARE AROUND FUTURE OF WEST BANK. WHILE BEGIN ADOPTED SELF-RULE PROPOSAL, LABOR PARTY ADOPTS SUBSTITUTE REGIONAL SOLUTION; I.E., ESTABLISHING PERMANENT BORDERS AND RETURNING LAND TO CONTROL OF ARAB GOVERNMENTS. BEGIN BELIEVES HIS SELF-RULE PLAN IS RESPONSIVE TO 242; LANGUAGE OF SELF-RULE PROPOSAL ACKNOWLEDGES THAT 242 CONNECTED WITH JORDAN, SYRIA, AND EGYPT.

6. U.S. ROLE. ASKED IF HE SEES U.S. ROLE AS PARTNER IN SOLVING EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PROBLEM, PERES REPLIED YES. U.S. HAS GOOD INTENTIONS. PERES DOES NOT BELIEVE U.S. HAS "SPECIAL STAND" OF ITS OWN BUT THAT IT SEEKS MIDDLE POSITION BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI POSITIONS. ASKED WHETHER HE FEELS ANY U.S. PRESSURE, HE SAID HE FEELS NO AMERICAN PRESSURE IN ANY MATERIAL WAY. BELIEVES U.S. VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN CONTINUING MOMENTUM OF PEACE PROCESS BUT HOPES U.S. WILL NOT RESORT TO ANY IMPOSED

SOLUTION, AS VP MONDALE HAD PROMISED. IN THIS REGARD HE WAS IMPRESSED BY SADAT'S STAND THAT HE WOULD NOT LOOK FOR ANY IMPOSED SOLUTION.

7. MEETING WITH SADAT. PERES SAW VALUE IN MEETING SADAT, EVEN THOUGH HE IS NOT IN ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, BECAUSE IT OFFERS HOPE THAT CONTACTS STILL CONTINUING. HE HOPED HIS MEETING SADAT MAY HELP LONDON MEETING AND BOOST PEACE INITIATIVE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED DIFFICULTIES BUT DISAGREED THAT LONDON MEETING WOULD NECESSARILY FAIL; NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE GIVEN CHANCE TO RESUME. SPEAKING ABOUT EGYPT, HE SAID HE RESPECTS EGYPTIAN ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST NOW AND

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FOR FUTURE. NOTING EVENTS IN ADEN, HORN AND AFGHANISTAN, PERES SAID "WE ALL" SHOULD BE CONCERNED TO SEE AREA, INCLUDING MEDITERRANEAN SEA, FREE FROM RUSSIAN AND COMMUNIST DANGERS. ASKED ABOUT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIS MEETING WITH SADAT IN FEBRUARY AND THIS ONE HE SAID HE BELIEVED AT THAT TIME EGYPT AND ISRAEL WERE ABOUT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. DECLARATION COMPRISED FIVE ITEMS AND THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON THREE OF THEM. PERES BELIEVED AGREEMENT ON LAST TWO CAN BE REACHED WITH ADDITIONAL EFFORT TO CLOSE GAP. PERES BELIEVES AGREEMENT CAN BE

REACHED SHORTLY SINCE LONDON TALKS WILL RESUME AT POINT
WHERE TALKS IN JERUSALEM STOPPED. EILTS

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